

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A channel quality reporting method for use by a wireless terminal, the method
- 2 comprising:
 - 3 measuring at least one of an amplitude and a phase of a first pilot signal corresponding to
 - 4 a first pilot tone to produce a first measured signal value;
 - 5 generating a first channel quality indicator value from said first measured signal value
 - 6 according to a first function which uses at least said first measured signal value as an input;
 - 7 transmitting the first channel quality indicator value;
 - 8 measuring at least one of an amplitude and a phase of a second pilot signal
 - 9 corresponding to a second pilot tone to produce a second measured signal value, the second pilot
 - 10 signal having a different transmission power than said first pilot signal;
 - 11 generating a second channel quality indicator value from said second measured signal
 - 12 value according to a second function which uses at least said second measured signal value as an
 - 13 input; and
 - 14 transmitting the second channel quality indicator value.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein one of the first and second pilot signals is a NULL
- 2 signal transmitted with zero power.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a first channel quality indicator value from
- 2 said first signal measurement value according to a first function includes:
 - 3 estimating the power included in at least one of the first and second received pilot
 - 4 signals.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein generating a second channel quality indicator value from
- 2 said second signal measurement value according to a second function includes:
 - 3 estimating the received power included in at least the second received pilot signal.
- 1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein generating a second channel quality indicator value from
- 2 said second measured signal value according to a second function further includes:
 - 3 estimating the signal to noise ratio of the second received pilot signal.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a first channel quality indicator value from
2 said first measured signal value according to a first function includes:
3 estimating the signal to noise ratio of the first received pilot signal.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein generating a second channel quality indicator value from
2 said second measured signal value according to a second function includes:
3 estimating the signal to noise ratio of the second received pilot signal.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second pilot tones are received during
2 different non-overlapping time periods.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said first and second pilot tones correspond to the same
2 frequency.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second pilot tones are received during the
2 same time period, the first and second pilot tones corresponding to different frequencies.

1 11. The method of claim 1,
2 wherein transmitting the first channel quality indicator value includes:
3 incorporating said first channel quality indicator value into a first message; and
4 transmitting said first message over a wireless communications link.

1 12. The method of claim 11,
2 wherein transmitting the second channel quality indicator value includes:
3 incorporating said second channel quality indicator value into said first message;
4 and
5 transmitting said second channel quality indicator value with said first value in
6 said first message over the wireless communications link.

1 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 repeatedly performing said steps of:
3 measuring a first pilot signal to produce a first measured signal value;
4 generating a first channel quality indicator value;

5 incorporating said first channel quality indicator value into a first message;
6 transmitting said first message over a wireless communications link;
7 measuring a second pilot signal;
8 generating a second channel quality indicator value;
9 incorporating said second channel quality indicator value into a second message
10 which is different from said first message; and
11 transmitting said second message over said wireless communications link.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 periodically repeating said steps of transmitting the first channel quality indicator value
3 and the second channel quality indicator value to transmit the corresponding values generated by
4 repeatedly performing said measuring and generating steps, the generated first and second
5 channel quality values being transmitted in an interleaved manner over time.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said interleaved manner includes alternating the
2 transmission of said first and second messages.

1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein said first and second messages are transmitted using
2 communications channel segments dedicated to carrying channel quality indicator values, said
3 messages carrying no explicit message types to indicate said messages are to report channel
4 quality values.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said messages are transmitted during pre-selected
2 dedicated time slots dedicated for use by said wireless terminal, said dedication of said dedicated
3 time slots precluding other wireless terminals using said dedicated time slots.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein said wireless terminal is located in a first sector of a
2 sectorized cell in which each sector uses the same set of tones, the step of measuring at least one
3 of an amplitude and a phase of a first pilot signal to produce a first measured signal value
4 including:
5 performing said first pilot signal measurement during a time period during which a sector
6 located adjacent said first sector transmits another pilot signal on the same tone as the first pilot

7 but using a different pre-selected transmission power from the pre-selected transmission power
8 used to transmit the first pilot signal.

1 19. The method of 18, wherein said another pilot signal is a NULL pilot signal and wherein
2 said different pre-selected transmission power used to transmit said another pilot signal during
3 said time period is zero.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said second step of measuring at least one of an
2 amplitude and a phase of a second pilot signal to produce a second measured signal value,
3 includes:

4 performing said second pilot signal measurement during a time period during which a
5 sector located adjacent said first sector transmits an additional pilot signal on the same tone as
6 the second pilot using the same pre-selected transmission power as the pre-selected transmission
7 power used to transmit the second pilot signal.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the first and second pilot signal measurements are
2 performed at the same time.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

2 measuring, at said same time, the power received on a third tone on which no signals are
3 transmitted during said same time, said same time being a symbol period used to transmit one
4 symbol.

1 23. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

2 determining relative position of the wireless terminal to at least two adjacent sectors to
3 the sector in which the wireless terminal is located based on said first and second signal
4 measurements; and
5 transmitting position information indicating a relative position to a sector boundary to a
6 base station.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

2 selecting channel information from to be transmitted to said base station as a function of
3 the determined relative position to a sector boundary.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein different channel condition information is transmitted
2 when said wireless terminal is near a first sector boundary than when it is near a second sector
3 boundary.

1 26. The method of claim 18, wherein the first channel quality indicator value is a function of
2 a ratio of channel gain of an interfering sector and the sector in which the wireless terminal is
3 located.

1 27. The method of claim 18, wherein the second signal measurement is made during a time
2 period where each of the sectors transmits a NULL on said second tone; and
3 wherein said second channel quality indicator value is a measurement of the noise on
4 said second tone during the transmission of said NULL by each of the sectors of the cell on said
5 second tone.

1 28. The method of claim 18, wherein said method is further directed to using channel quality
2 information to control transmission power in a sector of a cell, the method comprising:

3 operating a base station to receive said first and second channel quality indicator values;
4 and

5 operating the base station to calculate from the first and second channel quality indicator
6 values, an amount of transmission power required to achieve a desired signal to noise ratio at
7 said wireless terminal, said calculating requiring at least two different channel quality indicator
8 values to determining said amount of transmission power.

1 29. The method of claim 28, further comprising:

2 periodically repeating said step of operating the base station to calculate said amount of
3 transmission power using a different set of first and second channel quality indicator values
4 received from said wireless terminal, each different set of first and second channel quality
5 indicator values corresponding to a different symbol time during which said first and second
6 pilot signal measurements were made.

1 30. A wireless terminal, said wireless terminal including:
2 a receiver for receiving pilot signals;

3 measuring means for measuring at least one of an amplitude and a phase of a first pilot
4 signal to produce a first measured signal value and at least one of an amplitude and a phase of a
5 second pilot signal to produce a second measured signal value;

6 channel quality indicator value generation means for generating a first channel quality
7 indicator value from said first measured signal value according to a first function which uses at
8 least said first measured signal value as an input and generates a second channel quality
9 indicator value from said second measured signal value according to a second function which
10 uses at least said second measured signal value as an input; and

11 a transmitter for transmitting the first and second channel quality indicator values.

1 31. The wireless terminal of claim 30, wherein said channel quality indicator value
2 generation means includes software instructions for controlling a processing device to:
3 estimate the received power included in at least one of the first and second received pilot
4 signals.

1 32. The wireless terminal of claim 31, wherein said channel quality indicator value
2 generation means further includes additional software instructions for controlling the processing
3 device to:
4 estimate the received power included in at least the second received pilot signal.

1 33. The wireless terminal of claim 31, wherein said channel quality indicator value
2 generation means further includes additional software instructions for controlling the processing
3 device to:
4 estimate the signal to noise ratio of the second received pilot signal.

1 34. The wireless terminal of claim 31, wherein said means for transmitting includes:
2 a message generation module for generating a first message including said first channel
3 quality indicator value.

1 35. The wireless terminal of claim 34, wherein said message generation module includes
2 said second channel quality indicator value in said first message.

1 36. The wireless terminal of claim 34, wherein said message generation modules includes
2 machine executable instructions for controlling a machine to generate a second message
3 including said second channel quality indicator value.

1 37. The wireless terminal of claim 34, further comprising:
2 means for determining the position of the wireless terminal relative to a sector boundary
3 from received signals.

1 38. The wireless terminal of claim 37, wherein said message generation module includes
2 position information in said first message.

1 39. A base station, comprising:
2 a receiver for receiving at least two channel quality indicator values from a wireless
3 terminal; and
4 means for determining from at least two different channel quality indicator values a
5 transmission power required to achieve a desired signal to noise ratio at said wireless terminal.

1 40. The base station of claim 39, wherein said at least two different channel quality indicator
2 values correspond to different power signal measurements made by said wireless terminal at the
3 same time, said determined transmission power being a function of said at least two channel
4 quality indicator values.

1 41. The base station of claim 40, further comprising:
2 means for transmitting a signal to said wireless terminal using a transmission power
3 determined from said at least two channel quality indicator values.

1 42. The base station of claim 41, further comprising:
2 means for extracting said at least two different channel quality values from a single
3 message received from said wireless terminal.

1 43. The base station of claim 41, further comprising:
2 means for extracting said at least two different channel quality values from two separate
3 messages received from said wireless terminal.

- 1 44. The base station of claim 40, further comprising:
 - 2 means for receiving channel quality indicator information indicating the position of the
 - 3 wireless terminal relative to a second boundary included in a multi-sector cell.

- 1 45. The base station of claim 40, further comprising:
 - 2 a multi-sector transmit antenna for transmitting pilot signals into a plurality of sectors of
 - 3 a cell at the same time; and
 - 4 a transmitter coupled to said multi-sector antenna for transmitting pilot signals into each
 - 5 sector in a synchronized manner such that transmission of the pilot tones into all sectors of the
 - 6 cell use the same set of tones and are transmitted at substantially the same time in each of the
 - 7 sectors, said wireless terminal being located in one of said multiple sectors.